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News Release

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Ragasa found guilty in sex assault case

LIHUE - A Fifth Circuit jury on Friday found Larry Cass Ragasa guilty of two counts of Sexual Assault in the first degree, Class A felonies, and one count of fourth-degree Sexual Assault, a misdemeanor.

The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict as to a separate count of Sexual Assault in the fourth degree.

Ragasa, 45, of Hanapēpē, was found guilty of committing multiple acts of sexual assault against his then 14 to 15-year-old female relative in 2001-2002. He later subjected the victim to a sexual assault when she was an adult.

Fifth Circuit Judge Kathleen N.A. Watanabe presided over the week-long trial. Craig A. De Costa, Esq. represented Ragasa and the case was prosecuted by First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer S. Winn. Detective Todd Tanaka was the lead KPD investigator on the case.

Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar thanked the jury for their service and stated, "It took a lot of courage for the victim in this case to come forward and tell her story. Credit is also due to Detective Tanaka and First Deputy Jennifer Winn for seeing this challenging case through to a verdict. This Office is committed to ensuring justice for victims of child sex assault on Kaua'i."

Ragasa's sentencing is scheduled for June 1, 2016.



PHOTO: Larry Cass Ragasa, age 45, of Hanapēpē

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